

VA GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

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The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

DEQ 629 East Main Street, Richmond VA

For more information contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 or
email mamassie@deq.virginia.gov

Meeting Summary: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Terry Wagner, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Div.
Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Div.
Chris Evans, Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Division
Valerie Rourke, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division
Scott Johnson, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Steve Pellei, Department of Health
Brian Benham, Virginia Tech/Cooperative Extension
Jim McKean, Department of Business Assistance
Grier Mills, Department of General Services/Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
George Harlow, US Geological Survey

Guests:

Chuck Kanetsky, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III Source Water Protection
Mark Bennett, US Geological Survey
Steve Werner, Draper Aden
Jeffrey Chanet, Lee Crowell, Jenny Wright, and Robin Patton, DEQ Office of Ground Water Withdrawal Permitting
Whitney Katchmark, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Liza Fleeson, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Pesticide Services
Lisa Ochsenhirt, City of Richmond
Donald Hintz and Joyce Livingstone, Dominion Power
Christopher Krembis, Schnabel Engineering
Curtis Consolvo, GeoResources, Inc.
Kirk Cole, McKim and Creed Engineers
Sandy Warner, Olver Incorporated

Agencies not in attendance:

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (provided update in absentia), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.

Robin Patton with DEQ's Office of Ground Water Withdrawal Permitting gave an excellent overview of her program. Her power point presentation was entitled "Modeling for Resource Management". Robin reviewed the evolution of her program and noted important milestones in the history of the program. She discussed in detail the Virginia Coastal Plan Model, the Eastern Shore Sharp Model, and their importance to the program. Robin discussed model revisions and enlightened the Steering Committee on declining water levels in Coastal Plain aquifers. Robin reviewed responsibilities of the regional staff, the central office modeling staff, and applicants. She closed with a review of the improvements made to the model. A brief question and answer period followed.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Department of Environmental Quality

Mary Ann Massie, Water Resources Division, reported FFY97 grant workplan approval. The July 2006 wellhead protection implementation "Request For Proposals" resulted in four awards totaling \$147,390 – Town of Stanley, Town of Lovettsville, County of Wythe, and James City Service Authority. Work has begun on the FFY08 workplan and there are plans to issue another wellhead protection implementation RFP in late June or early July 2007.

Mary Ann also reported that FFY07 funding was not allocated to the National Rural Water Association, and subsequently Virginia Rural Water Association. Therefore three positions will be eliminated from VRWA – one training position and both source water protection positions effective May 15.

Mary Ann distributed the GWPSC Annual Report. Hardcopies are available and it is posted on our web site.

Terry Wagner, DEQ Water Resources Division Director, reported the amendments to the Virginia Water Protection Permit regulations have been presented to the State Water Control Board. These amendments govern surface water withdrawal permits. He also noted the General Assembly approved transferring the biosolids program from VDH to DEQ. 17 FTEs will be hired to implement this program (*# of FTEs confirmed 03/28/07*).

Terry stated DEQ's Ground Water Characterization effort is expanding and the staff is seeking research station partners west of interstate 95. It has been difficult to find partners willing to match funds for station installation. The characterization staff are currently involved in a cooperative effort with the USGS and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission.

Chris Evans, Director of Remediation Programs DEQ Waste Division, reported on an EPA initiative for States to establish a "one clean up" program. This would establish clean up endpoints for all Waste programs and certainly mean a new remediation philosophy for both DEQ and EPA. Aquifer classification was mentioned as part of Pennsylvania's approach to the "one clean up" program.

Valerie Rourke, DEQ's Reclamation and Reuse coordinator, reported the draft regulations have been approved by the State Water Control Board and have

moved into executive review. Public notice is expected by early June. Revisions should be before the Board in September and finalized by the end of calendar year 2007.

Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services

Scott Johnson reported VDACS is still without a Commissioner. Additionally the regulations for pesticide applicators are under revision. Liza Fleeson added that the 2008 FIFRA grant includes asking States for a list of pesticides of interest and data mining activities.

US Geological Survey

George Harlow reports the following USGS Publications have been prepared in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality:

Hayes, D.C., and Wiegand, Ute, 2006, [Drainage areas of selected streams in Virginia](http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1308/): U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2006–1308, 51 p.
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1308/>

Krstolic, J.L., 2006, Drainage basins for Virginia and surrounding areas: U.S. Geological Survey Digital Spatial Data Set at
http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/metadata/usgswrd/XML/OFR2006-1308_Drainage_Basin.xml

George provided the following update on the Water Availability Study: By the end of March, a total of 90 streamflow gages in the Commonwealth will be equipped with a specific conductance/temperature probe as part of an innovative evaluation of ground-water/surface-water interactions being funded through the USGS Office of Ground Water and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The objective is to develop hydrologic budgets for the watersheds and counties of central and western Virginia. A chloride mass balance method will be used at a total of 131 streamflow gages across Virginia, and continuous specific conductance and temperature monitoring coupled with chloride samples will be applied.

Department of Business Assistance

Jim Keen – nothing new to report.

Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

Grier Mills – nothing new to report.

Department of Health

Steve Pellei reported the Special Projects position (formerly held by Chris Adkins) will be readvertised. Sandy Warner, Olver Inc., reported her work is progressing under the VDH wellhead protection contract. Since June 2006 Olver staff have finished Wellhead Protection Plans for Giles County Public Service Authority (as

described in the annual report), Woodland Mobile Home Park (Amherst County), and Woodberry Forest School (Madison County). The local advisory committee for Bath County Service Authority (who manages 5 different waterworks) is currently reviewing a draft plan for that includes all 5 of their waterworks. We are currently working with the Town of Remington. This spring (April/May) we are lined up to begin with several waterworks including Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority (which manages 13 waterworks) and three waterworks with Loudoun County Sanitation Authority.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Brian Benham participated via conference call. He reported VaTech is working to revitalize the Household Water Quality Education program. They are cooperating with Virginia State University. Brian plans to apply for a grant to create a Master Well Owners Network (MWON) as part of this effort. This program has been very successful in Pennsylvania. A June meeting of Virginia Cooperative Extension agents will be the kick off for the MWON program. There will be service obligations for anyone certified through the MWON program.

Department of Housing and Community Development

Wyatt Little provided the follow update in absentia:

A budget bill conference amendment transferred responsibility for administering \$17 million in WQIF funds to DHCD, but that the Governor has not yet signed the budget, including that amendment, into law. The amendment calls on DHCD, using its existing delivery systems to accelerate the commitment of these funds to community projects and document program impacts for communities located outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed for: 1) the construction of mandated water quality improvement facilities at publicly owned treatment works for projects that would otherwise result in a financial hardship for the residential users of the facilities; 2) the design and construction of managed on-site community wastewater treatment systems in isolated areas that cannot be addressed through active treatment facilities; and 3) planning grants to develop regional or county wide wastewater treatment strategies in areas that have not previously completed planning and engineering studies. Priority will be given to the elimination of straight piping of household wastewater into the Commonwealth's waterways.

Chuck Kanetsky with EPA Region III Source Water Protection addressed the joint resolution that was not approved by Congress. This affects all Rural Water Associations. Hopefully the funds will be restored in FFY08. Chuck remarked on EPA's continuing interest in and support for source water protection and the upcoming States meeting in early May in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007. Please mark you calendar to attend.